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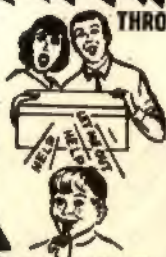
DETECTIVE COMICS

AUG.
NO. 378

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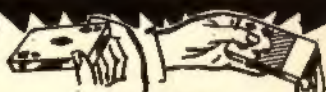


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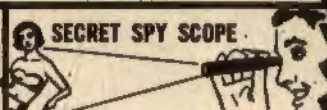
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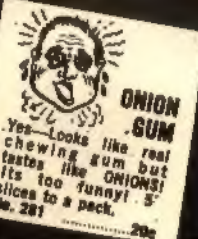
With combination lock only you can open.

Looks like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. Securely locked by combination only you know—because you yourself have set it. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding. 700 \$1.00

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ONION GUM

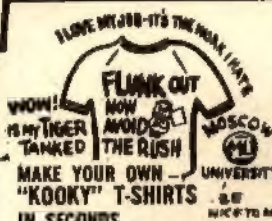
Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 3 slices to a pack. No. 281 20c



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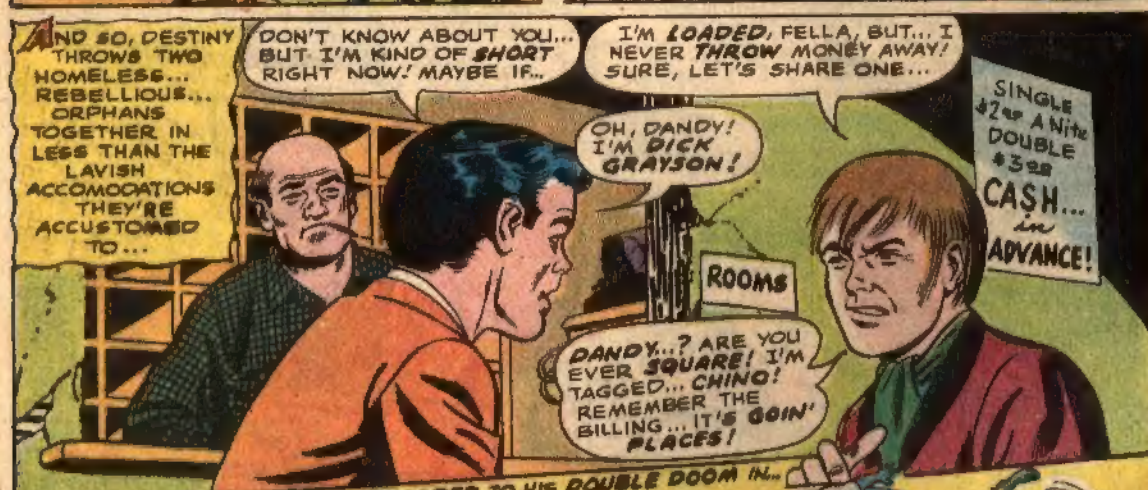
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GOtham CITY...IN TWO WIDE-SPREAD ZONES VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL SCENES ARE BEING ENACTED BY PLAYERS IN A STRANGE DRAMA...A LIFE-COMEDY THAT THREATENS TO END IN TRAGEDY FOR ALL!



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HEY! DIG THIS HEADLINE, FAL...

PUT THE PAPER ON M' BILL, FLUNKY!

CASH, BUDDY... CASH! TOSS IT OVER...

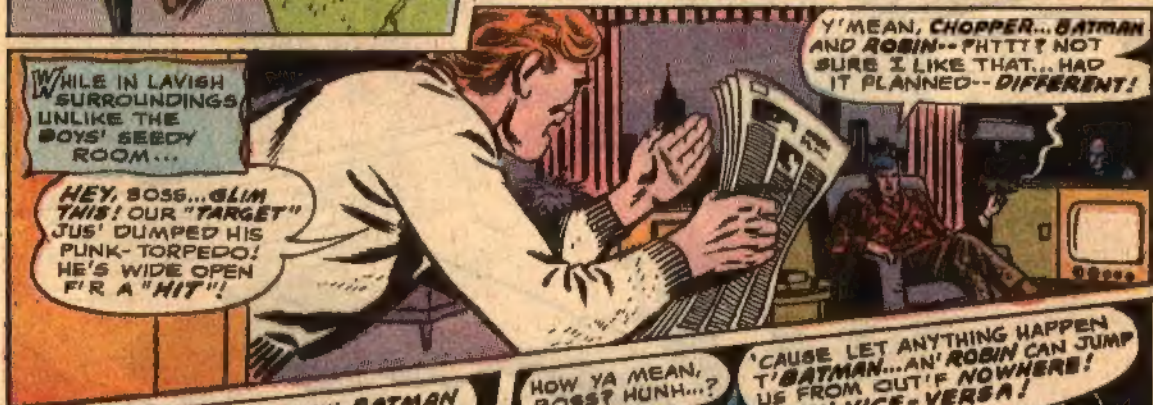
CHEAP CRUMBS! HERE...

ROOMS!



EULP! THIS IS A REAL DAND-- I MEAN... THIS IS A GREAT PAD!

HOW ABOUT THAT? THE BATTLIN' DUO... DID IT! MMM... THIS'S EVEN BETTER F'R ME-- AN' SAFER!



WHILE IN LAVISH SURROUNDINGS UNLIKE THE BOYS' SEEDY ROOM...

HEY, BOSS... GLIM THIS! OUR "TARGET" JUS' DUMPED HIS PUNK-TORPEDO! HE'S WIDE OPEN F'R A "HIT"!

Y'MEAN, CHOPPER... BATMAN AND ROBIN-- PHTTT? NOT SURE I LIKE THAT... HAD IT PLANNED-- DIFFERENT!

"...IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, BATMAN SAID THE DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN FOR YOUNG ROBIN, BUT... HE WOULDN'T SEEK HIM OUT!"

RUBBISH!

SO? THAT MAKES IT GREAT, MR. SALVO! NOW WE GOT ONLY ONE T' DEAL WITH!

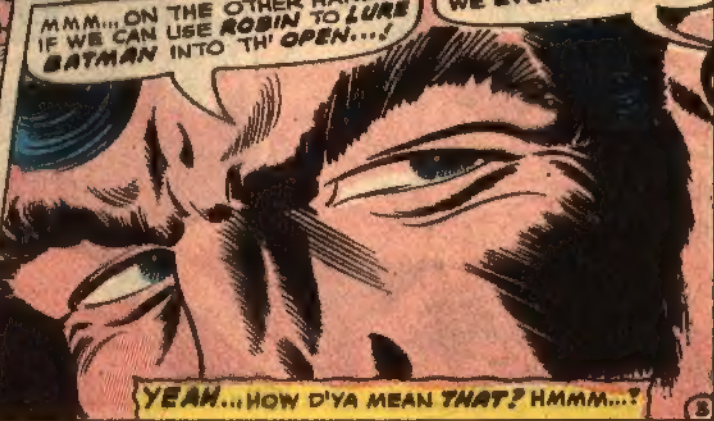


HOW YA MEAN, BOSS? HUNH...?

'CAUSE LET ANYTHING HAPPEN T' BATMAN... AN' ROBIN CAN JUMP US FROM OUT'F NOWHERE! AN' VICE-VERSA!

MMM... ON THE OTHER HAND... IF WE CAN USE ROBIN TO LURE BATMAN INTO TH' OPEN...

USE ROBIN... HOW DO WE EVEN FIND HIM?



YEAH... HOW D'YA MEAN THAT? HMMM...?

HILE BACK IN A SHABBY ROOM...

WE'LL SHARE'N
SHARE ALIKE,
DICK BABY!
I'LL TAKE THE
TOP DRAWERS!

S-SURE, CHINO...
I'M EASY TO
LIVE WITH...
I THINK...

SOUNDS LIKE Y'HAVE DOUBTS!
WHATSAMATTER...GIVE Y'R
OLD MAN A HARD TIME?

BRU--ER, I
MEAN MY
GUARDIAN...
HE'S A PRETTY
GOOD EGG, I
GUESS! BUT--

HE'S OVER
THIRTY! I
DIG...LIKE
MY--ER--
GUARDIAN!
SO YER AN'
ORPH! TOO...

... AN' YOU WANNA SHOW
THESE BIG SHOTS WE CAN
MAKE OUR OWN WORLD,
LIKE ME, EH? WE COULD
MAKE A TEAM, BABY... I'
GOT PLANS!

BIG
PLANS!
OOOOPS...!

THUNK

W-WHAT'S
THAT,
CHINO...?

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE,
CHUMP...? HAND IT UP..

UH-UH, CHINO...YOU
CAN'T MEAN IT! WE
CAN MAKE IT BIG
TOGETHER...BUT
NOT LIKE THIS...

Y'DON'T HEAR GOOD,
PAL! WHICH IS A
CRUMMY START FOR
A "PARTNERSHIP"...

SO WE MAKE IT A
DICTATORSHIP! AN'
I DICTATE...GIVE!

SPLAT!

Y'R STUBBORN! WHICH IS NO GOOD--

Oooo!

L-LET GO, CHINO!
D-DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--

KTHOMP!

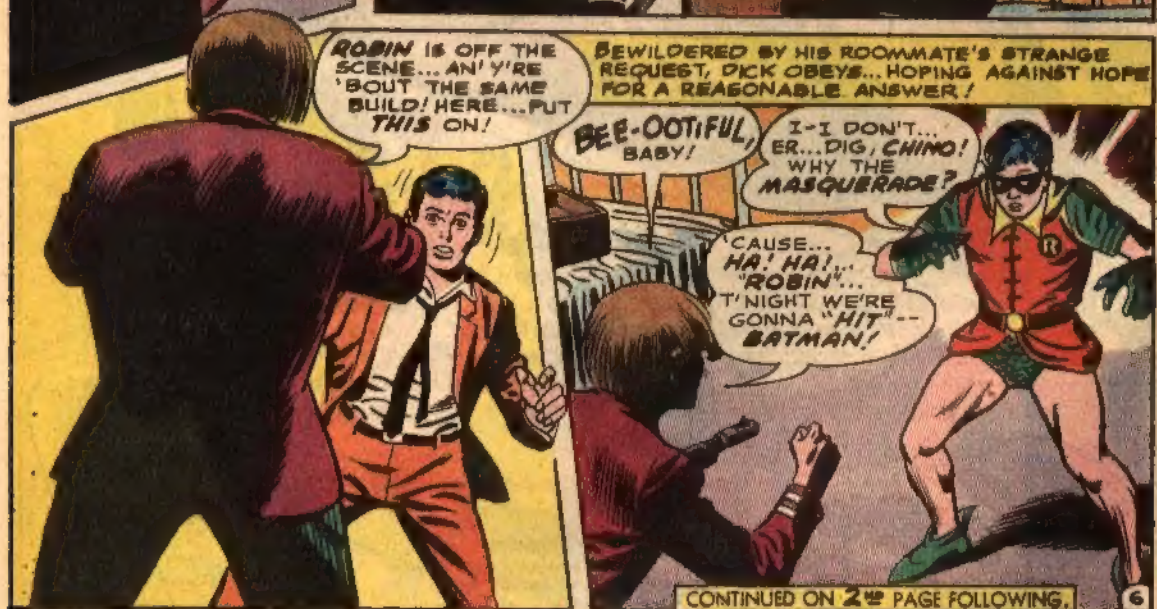
HURT ME, Y'LITTLE PUNK? WHERE I COME FROM... WE EAT "BOY SCOUTS" FER BREAKFAST! THEY CRACKLE-CRUNCH SO PRETTY!

THEN TRY--
SNAP!
POP!

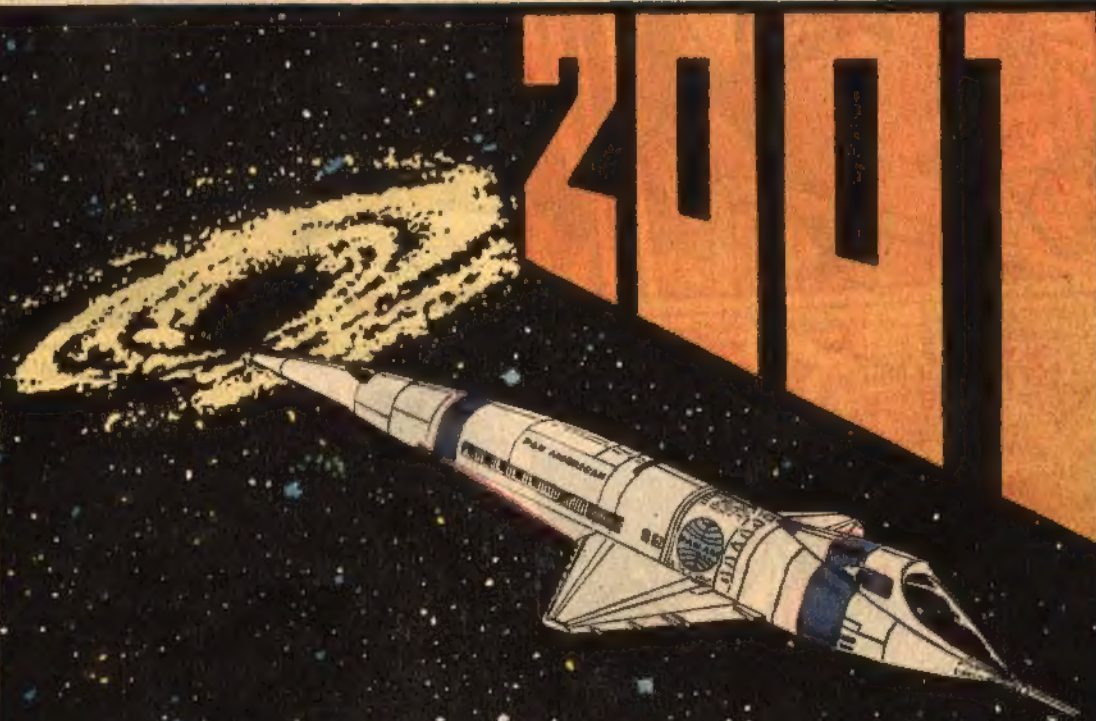
I'VE TRIED IT...
AN' IT KEPT ME AWAKE! HOW'S ABOUT DIGGIN' FOR... THE BOX PRIZE!

KtchOCK!

OWOOO!



This New Aurora Hobby Kit is 33 Years Ahead of Its Time!



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The Pan-Am Space Clipper from the Movie of the Century!

If you thought the other Cinerama movies were something, wait'll you see "2001"—it's the greatest! MGM went all out, spent about \$14-million, consulted with every important aerospace expert, and came up with the science-fiction sensation of all time! Who's the star? The PAN-AM SPACE

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Models can be painted as shown. Kits do not include paint or cement.

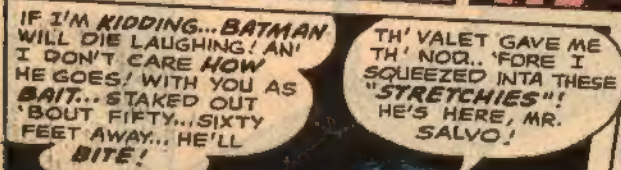
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A CURT ORDER OVER THE INTERCOM, AND...



TWO ROBINS? ONE A PHONEY... THE OTHER REAL! ONE IN THE HANDS OF A "PRO"... THE OTHER, AN "AMATEUR"! WHAT GRIM DILEMMA FACES BATMAN?

ONE THE CAPED CRUSADER WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST! NOW, HEAR THIS...

ANOTHER "COUNCIL-OF-WAR" IS BEING HELD BY THE "AMATEUR" CHINO...

WITH YOU AS DECOY, DICK BABY... BATMAN'S GOTTA COME UNDER MY GUN! AN' WHEN HE GETS THIS NOTE...

IF I DON'T PLAY ALONG... I COME UNDER THE GUN FIRST! POOR MISGUIDED KID'S GOT AN "IDEE FIXE"!! IF ONLY I COULD BREAK THE CHAIN OF BAD UPBRINGINGS...

* FRENCH FOR "FIKED IDEA"...OR A "BUG IN THE BEAN"!

WHILE WITH THE "PROS"...

A STAMP OF ROBIN'S THUMBPRINT! HOW'D YA GET IT, BOSS?

Batman:- If you want Robin... look on the penthouse roof of the tower Building at midnight!
P.S. As proof we have him... check this on your "Finger-Comparator"!

THAT FINGERPRINT-- ROBIN'S, CHINO? HOW'D YOU...

MADE THIS RUBBER STAMP FROM A "SAMPLE" MY...ER... GUARDIAN LIFTED SOME-PLACE!

BATMAN:-- YOU WANT TO SEE ROBIN ALIVE AGAIN... COME TO PIER 21 AT MIDNIGHT!

P.S. -- CASE YOU DOUBT I HAVE HIM... HERE'S HIS I.D.

HEH! HEH! "LIGHT-FINGER" HARRY ACTED LIKE A WAITER AT A TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO TH' DYNAMIC DUO... AN' LIFTED A GLASS THE PUNY PUNK PAWED!

THIS SHOULD FLIP BATMAN... IN OUR DIRECTION!

SO THIS IS TO BE BATMAN'S DILEMMA! TWO DATES AT MIDNIGHT... BOTH CAN MEAN HIS DEATH... AND ONLY ONE MIGHT SAVE THE REAL ROBIN! AND NOW A SHORT... ONE-PAGE PAUSE!



BIG MAMIE never lost a man

A lot of men loved "Big Mamie". And she never lost a lover. Officially, she was known as the Battleship USS Massachusetts, but her men gave her the affectionate nickname. They started World War II together with the first salvos in North Africa, and ended it together with the last salvos in the Pacific. They fought 35 sea battles without a fatality. Revell now has a model of the USS Massachusetts, for under \$1.00. She'll be interesting to build, but be careful. You might fall in love.

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SUPERMAN IS JIMMY OLSEN'S HANGUP!

80 pg. GIANT

JIMMY OLSEN

SHOCK-FILLED

ANTI-SUPERMAN ISSUE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SEPT. NO. 173

SUPERMAN IS TURNED INTO A DEVIL BY... "THE HELMET OF HATE!"

JIMMY LAUNCHES A KRYPTONITE ATTACK AS... "KING OF THE GIANT ANTS!"

THE MAN OF STEEL IS KAYOED BY... OLSEN'S SECRET POWER!

THE MAN OF MIGHT AND MIGHTY... THE SUPER-BRAIN OF JIMMY OLSEN!

JIMMY EXPOSES HIS BEST PAL'S SECRET IDENTITY IN... "THE BETRAYAL OF SUPERMAN!"

**In this
COMPLETE
issue..**

**JIMMY
STRIKES
BACK!**

ON SALE JUNE 11th

"BATMAN! DROP DEAD... TWICE!" CHAPTER 2

THAT EVENING IN THE BATCAVE... BOTH SEALED NOTES, RECEIVED BY THE POLICE, ARE PASSED ON TO BATMAN...

IS IT POSSIBLE, MASTER BRUCE? THAT POOR MASTER DICK IS HELD CAPTIVE BY TWO BLACKMAILERS?

NEGATIVE, ALFRED! DICK MAY BE A TROUBLED KID, BUT... HE'S NOT SCHIZOID! * NEITHER OF THESE PRINTS WAS TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM HIS FINGER...

... BUT THEY ARE HIS! NO ONE WOULD GO TO THIS EXTENT UNLESS ONE OF THEM HAD ROBIN! BUT WHICH...?

* SPLIT- PERSONALITY! BUT YOU ONLY GET ONE BODY WITH EACH "SPLIT". DIG?

THEN HOW...? I MEAN, SIR--IF YOU MAKE THE **WRONG** CHOICE...

...ROBIN IS **KILLED**! AND I CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES... AT THE SAME TIME! **THROBBIN' PALPITATION**, ALFRED... I CAN'T RISK A MISTAKE **THIS BIG**!

OH-H, MASTER BRUCE... WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM LEAVE HOME!

I--I MEANT TO TEACH HIM A LESSON... BUT **NOT AT THIS COST**! AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE **WISE GUARDIAN**... WHAT A **FOOL** I AM!

AS MY PATER SAID: "AGE IS NO GUARANTOR OF WISDOM... A YOUNG FOOL CAN GROW UP TO BE AN-- OLD FOOL!" BUT WHO COULD HAVE FORESEEN...

I COULD'VE! I KNOW THE WORLD **OUTSIDE** THIS HOUSE IS FULL OF HIDDEN MENACES... WAITING TO DESTROY YOUNG INNOCENTS!

AND I VIRTUALLY THREW ROBIN TO THE WOLVES! RAPACIOUS MEN WHO WOULD STOP AT **NOTHING** TO GET ME!

OH, YES, ALFRED... THIS IS A TRAP! THEY WANT ME... BUT THEY'LL KILL **ME** TOO! I'M WILLING TO **SACRIFICE** MYSELF--IF ONLY I CAN SAVE DICK!

A DEADLY DILEMMA! A NOBLE MAN WHO IS WILLING TO **TEAR HIMSELF IN TWO** TO SAVE A FRIEND... AND YET CANNOT PHYSICALLY DO SO...

A HALF HOUR BEFORE MIDNIGHT...

CAN'T RISK BEIN' SEEN BY **ANYBODY**, DICK BABY! WE TAKE THE BACK ALLEYS TO PIER 21... THEN SET THE SCENE FOR **BATMAN**!

POOR **CHINO** HAS THE SAME HANG-UP I HAVE... WANTS TO CHALLENGE THE OLD "ESTABLISHMENT", BUT DOESN'T KNOW **HOW**!

LOOK, **CHINO**... I-I'M SCARED! T-TACKLING **BATMAN**, NO LESS... C-COULDN'T WE FIND A BETTER WAY TO MAKE OUR MARK?

Y'CHICKEN OR SOMEPIN' BABY... WE KILL **BATMAN**... AN' TH' WHOLE SYNDICATE WILL BE EATIN' OUTA OUR HAND!

AND, AS THEY TAKE THE DARK BY-WAYS OF **GOTHAM CITY**...

SO HE'S TRYING TO GO THEM ONE BETTER! MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS... **HIS** "ESTABLISHMENT" IS THE **UNDERWORLD**! WHILE, ALL I WANT TO DO IS...

... PROVE TO **BRUCE** THAT I CAN FUNCTION AS A **RESPONSIBLE** CITIZEN IN A **LAW-ABIDING** WORLD... WITHOUT HIS CONTINUOUS INTERFERENCE!

HUH! FINE JOB I'VE DONE SO FAR! GOT MYSELF USED AS A **FATSY** TO LURE **BATMAN** INTO A TRAP... UNDER THE GUN OF A KOOKIE KID--

... WHO WON'T HESITATE TO USE IT! OR WOULD HE...? HE CAN'T BE THAT FAR GONE... DEEP DOWN THERE MUST BE A **GOOD** CORE...

C-COULDN'T WE J-JUST... CAPTURE HIM?

THEN MAYBE BETWEEN **BRUCE** AND ME... WE COULD "STRAIGHTEN" **CHINO** OUT!

WHA...? THIS IS A REAL PRO "**HIT**"... WE'RE STEPPIN' OUT'F THE JUVENILES IN TH' **ADULTS**!

MOVE A LITTLE THIS WAY, DICK BABY... WHEN **BATMAN** COMES T' **SAVE** "**ROBIN**" I WANT HE SHOULD SEE WHAT HE'S GETTIN'!

BEFORE DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON CAN ANTICIPATE CINO'S WILD PLAN... HE'S HOOKED AND SWUNG OUT... HELPLESS ABOVE THE CONCRETE PIER FAR BELOW...

HEY--!

BYE-BYE, BIRDIE! I'LL JUS' WAIT HERE INNA SHADOWS... AN' WHEN THE... HA! HA!... CAPED CRUSADER MAKES LIKE A RESCUE-- PHTTT! I HIT 'IM WITH A THUNDERED SLUG!

PIER 21

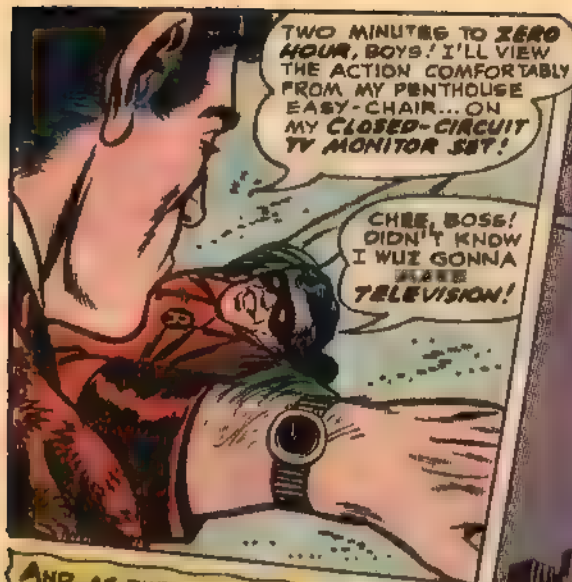
WHILE ON THE PENTHOUSE ROOF OF A MORE SUMPTUOUS ADDRESS, ANOTHER TABLEAU IS BEING LAID OUT FOR THE MASKED MANHUNTER'S "ENTERTAINMENT"....

COMFORTABLE, CHOPPER?

DESE MARBLE-CHIPS AIN'T NO BED O' ROSES, MR SALVO! BUT GLAD DESE ROPES ARE LOOSE SLIP-KNOTS.

WHICH YOU'LL "SLIP" AT THE PROPER TIME! I WANT THE ICER TO HAVE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE FOR HIS FINAL ACT!

AND SO, ON TWO SEPARATE STAGES, THE SCENE IS LAID... ONLY AWAITING BATMAN'S CHOICE OF THEATER! ON EITHER, DEATH WILL RING DOWN THE FINAL CURTAIN! WHICH WILL BE ATTACHED?

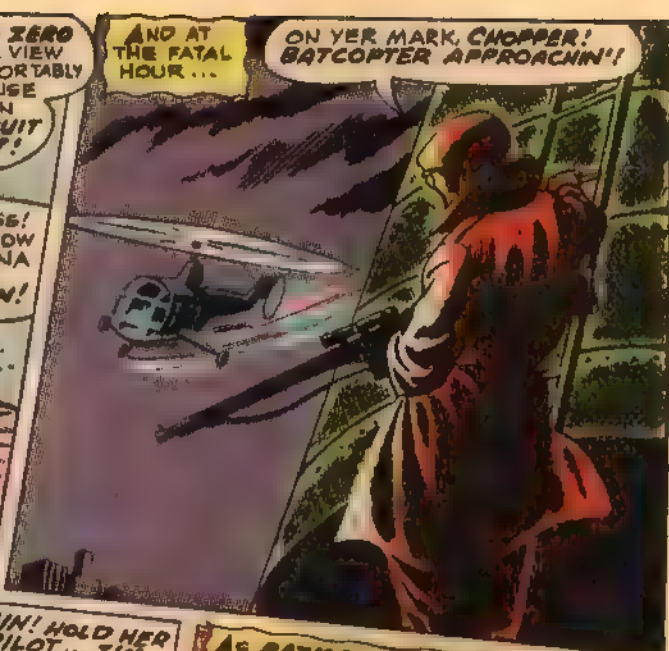


TWO MINUTES TO ZERO HOUR, BOYS! I'LL VIEW THE ACTION COMFORTABLY FROM MY PENTHOUSE EASY-CHAIR... ON MY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV MONITOR SET!

CHEE, BOSS! DIDN'T KNOW I WUZ GONNA ~~SEE~~ TELEVISION!

AND AT THE FATAL HOUR...

ON YER MARK, CHOPPER! BATCOPTER APPROACHIN'!



AND, AS THE VIGILANT VANQUISHER'S CRAFT ARRIVES AND HOVERS...

IT'S ROBIN! HOLD HER STEADY, PILOT... I'M GOING DOWN!



AS BATMAN BENDS OVER TO UNTIE "ROBIN"... THE INERT MASQUERADER SUDDENLY SLIPS HIS KNOTS, AND...

EASY DOES IT, ROBIN... HAVE YOU UNTIED-- HEY! WHAT--

GOT 'IM, ICER... **SHOOT!**

BATMAN HAS MADE THE WRONG CHOICE! NOW, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM... AND THE REAL ROBIN?



DEAD IN THE ICER'S SIGHTS, BATMAN RECEIVES THE FULL IMPACT AS THE SILENCED SLUG THUDS INTO ITS TARGET! HE SHUDDERS, AND...



WHILE IN LUSH LUXURANCE, THE ENGINEER OF THE CAPED CRUSADER'S UNTIMELY DEMISE SITS GLOATING AS HE VIEWS THE "TOO-LATE SHOW" ...

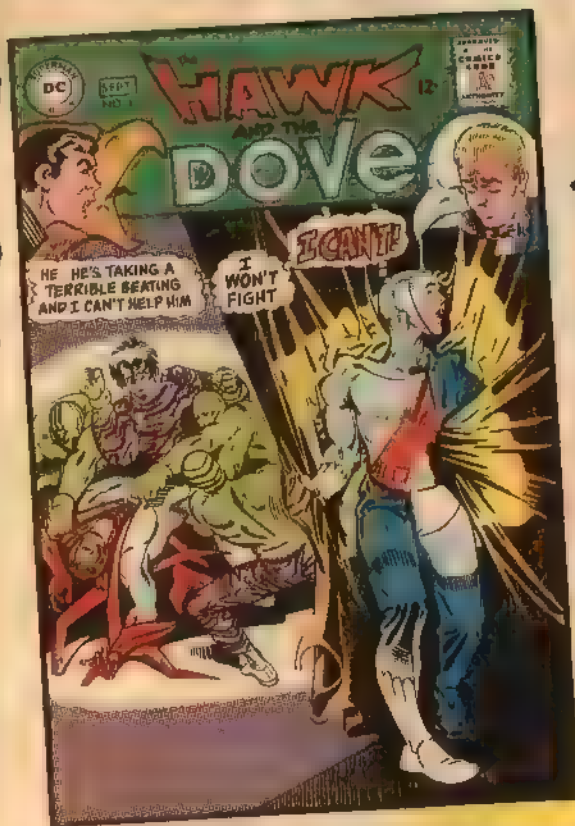
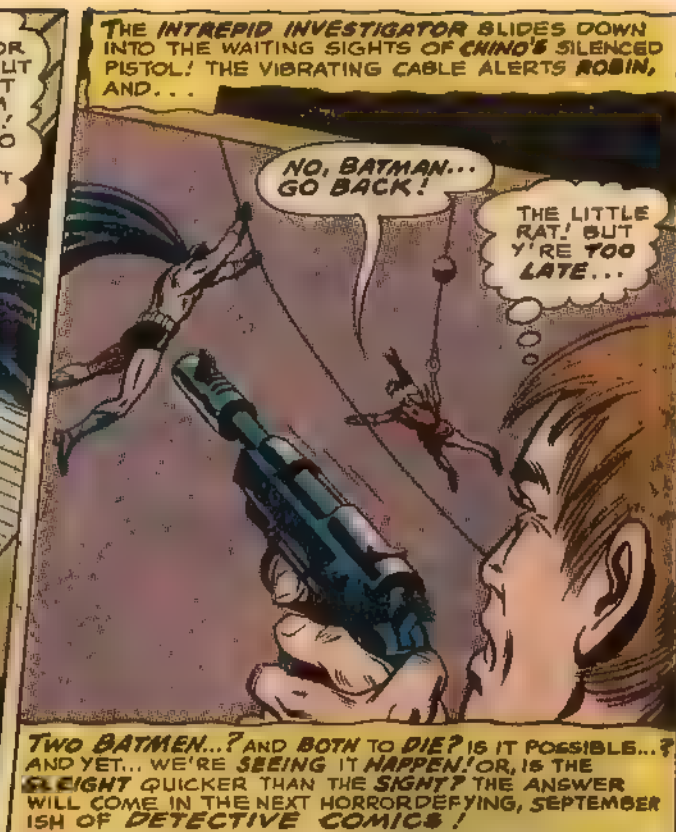


AT LONG...LONG LAST--THE JOB IS DONE! GOTHAM CITY IS MINE!

BUT LET US TURN BACK A FEW SECONDS IN TIME TO ANOTHER PLACE...WHAT IS THIS? MILES AWAY, AT PIER 21... SCREAMING TO A PANIC STOP...THE BATMOBILE?

ROBIN! MUST GET HIM DOWN...!



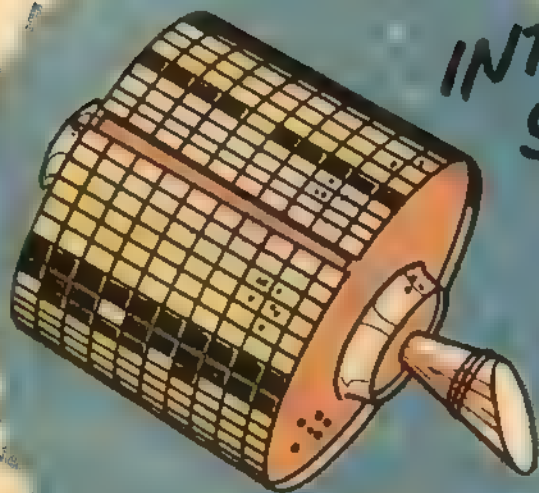


A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS WHO ARE A WORLD APART... TOO YOUNG TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE EMOTIONS THAT SEPARATE THEM... AWARE OF THEIR UNIQUE ABILITIES... AND FRUSTRATED BY THEIR FATHER'S REACTION TO...

The
HAWK
AND THE
DOVE

NOW IN THEIR OWN MAGAZINE
On Sale June 25th

INTELSAT III SATELLITE



Like the Early Birds, these satellites will hang thousands of miles above the earth. They will be sent up in 1968. Each one can bounce 1200 telephone calls—and four television channels—from one side of the earth to the other all at the same time. They rotate with the earth and always remain above the same spot on the earth. They get their energy from solar energy cells.

CHEERIOS KID

This is the Cheerios Kid. He gets his energy from Cheerios! Like you he needs go-power every day. And a breakfast of Cheerios with milk is packed with muscle-building protein, and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go, Get Cheerios!



BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

The fact that *Captain Cold* has strayed into *Detective Comics* from *The Flash* and the *Batman*-TV show in his new guise as *Mr. Freeze* (ex-*Mr. Zero*), did nothing whatever to mar the quality of issue #373. I realize that *Mr. Zero* antedated the *Captain*, but your March cover brought a shocked groan to my lips (I'm an avid *Flash* fan). As I turned the page, I was all set to *hate* "Mr. Freeze's Chilling Deathtrap!" Cold-producing villains are so common nowadays! Besides *Captain Cold* and *Mr. Freeze*, there's *The Icicle* who works out of *Earth-Two* (and who was created long before either of them). The *Legion of Super-Heroes* boasts *Polarboy*, even if he's not a villain.

In this case, as per usual, familiarity breeds contempt. But *Batman's* actions and the neat plot twists far outweighed the dull villainy. For instance: drama appears in the very first panel, with a screeching ambulance careening poor *Aunt Harriet* to the hospital. The next panel, which depicted *Mr. Freeze* in his aninine *Frigimobile* (gimmick cars get me), nearly spoiled it; but along came panel three and Science. *Cyrosurgery* I'd heard of, but the last place I'd expected to see it was in *Detective*.

A few deathbed scenes and a couple of arctic antics later, the story picked up speed. I must admit that the *Dynamic Duo's* solution to the *Flash*-familiar-ice-under-the-feet, on page 6, was ingenious (and simple!), and quite in keeping with heroes who have no superpowers to rely on. *Flash* never thought to bring sand along in his fights with *Captain Cold*. Ditto for *Batman's* escape from his imprisoning ice-block.

I have a plea. The last scene in the story shows *Aunt Harriet*, all well and still blissfully ignorant of *Batman's* and *Robin's* secret identities. Why don't you break down and divulge the news to her? You might fix it so *Alfred* and *Aunt Harriet* don't know that one another knows the big secret. It could lead to amusing developments—and might give us an insight into heretofore robot-*Alfred's* personality.

—Rand B. Lee, Roxbury, Conn.

(You want *Aunt Harriet* "in" on the secret identities of the *Dynamic Duo*—but as far as the next correspondent is concerned, he'd just as soon have her "out" of the series altogether!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Mike Friedrich has penned another good story with "Mr. Freeze's Chilling Deathtrap!" Though this was only his third script, he has already established a detectible pattern (at least for *Batman* stories). What gave him away was the use of such "Golden Age" *Batman* gimmicks as the *Batsignal*, the trap, the presence of *Alfred*, and the fact that *Batman* worked alone for a while. (I'm going to be in sad shape if Gardner Fox wrote the story—but then again there was a

light use of captions which eliminates Fox from consideration.)

Well, anyway, all of these gimmicks and the two plots made for an enjoyable story. By the way, which was the sub-plot? I tend to think that *Batman's* saving *Aunt Harriet* was the main plot, and his apprehending *Mr. Freeze* merely a by-product of the first plot.

I hope that you will capitalize on *Aunt Harriet's* illness, and use this as an excuse to send her to a rest home or something similar. This would get rid of a supporting character (*Batman* is already overloaded with them), and allow *Alfred* to play a greater role.

The *Elongated Man* classic (can you have a classic in nine pages?) was beautiful. The use of Commissioner Gordon and the *Riddler* was great, and the story would have been okay even without the last-minute appearance of the *Capad-Twosome* (so what's wrong with a non-alliterative nickname?).

—David Lewin, Lomita, Cal.

(For the luvva Mike (Friedrich), it's back to the test-tube with your "identify the author" analysis! Gardner Fox did indeed write the *Mr. Freeze* story!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

When I mention that I thought last year's August-September two-parter the finest tale written, you will perhaps understand why my first impression of the *Mr. Freeze* story was *dislike*. However, I realized that this wasn't entirely true. It's sort of a credit-debit account, though I'm afraid that the debit side still comes out ahead. I guess it's a point that I keep harping on; that the mystery/detective story with action makes a better-rounded, more *complete* story than the crook-with-a-gimmick-and-only-a-gimmick-story.

It's in this latter category that I feel the March story fails. My complaint is not about costume villains about which debate has appeared in this column in the past. Some of the best stories in the first category above have had the *Riddler*, *Penguin*, etc. as protagonists. No, it's these stories that seem, somehow, plotless; stories in which *Batman* knows the villain's identity from the start and the whole tale is simply one long chase scene with *Batman* overcoming the problem presented by the crook's machine, device, etc.

The debit side summed up, I shift to credit. The *Aunt Harriet* involvement/crisis and *Mobin's* terrific crack about *Mr. Freeze* being a "refugee from a television show"! And, of course, the point I've been raving about in my last few letters—the startling "new art"!

—Mojra L. Maynard, St. Paul, Minn.

(Is "startling" strong enough to describe the artistic debut of Bob Brown—Joe Giella in this issue?—Editor)

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ANGEL and the APE

WHO
ARE
THEY
?

WHAT
ARE
THEY
?

STORY
BY
GARDNER
FOX

The ELONGATED Man

ART
BY
SID
GREENE

IN THE ULTRA-DELUXE PENDRAGON ARMS APARTMENTS...

BLASTED THE VASE--
A MOMENT BEFORE
IT WOULD'VE
KILLED ME!

BAM!!

DURING
THE DAY...

TIME'S STOPPED SHORT
FOR THAT KILLER-CLOCK--
BUT NOT FOR ME!

BAM!!

AND EVEN AT THE
DEAD OF NIGHT...

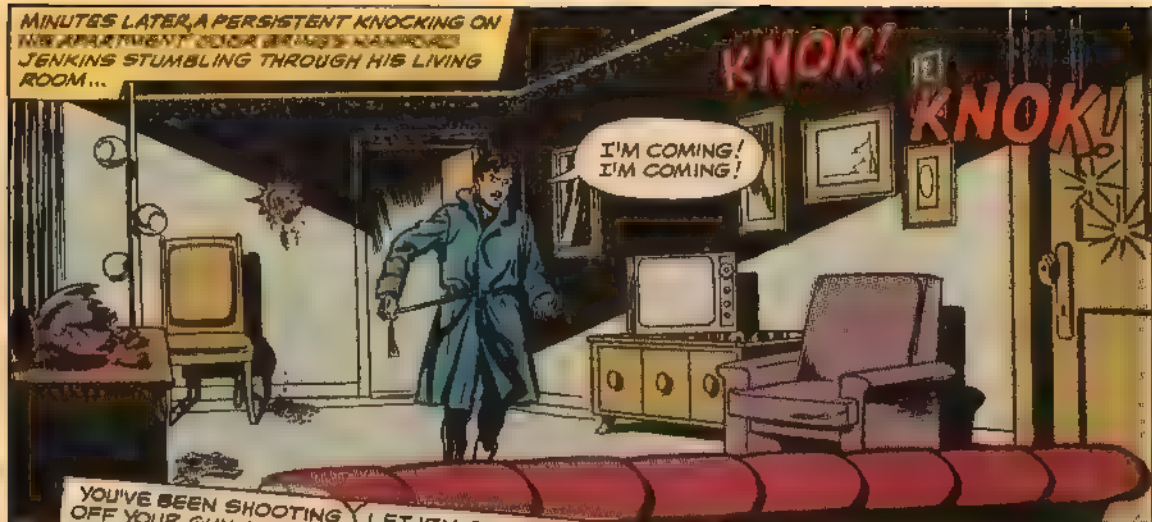
THAT SHATTERS THE LAMP'S
ATTEMPT AT MY LIFE!

BLAAMM!!

WHY IS THIS MAN SHOOTING AT
VASES--CLOCKS--LAMPS IN HIS
APARTMENT? WHAT STRANGE
COMPULSION DRIVES HIM TO
SHOOT DOWN THESE INANIMATE
"ASSASSINS"? WHERE WILL
HE SHOOT NEXT? AND
AT WHAT?

"Menace of the Man-Killing
Shooting Gallery!"

MINUTES LATER, A PERSISTENT KNOCKING ON THE APARTMENT DOOR BRINGS HARRISON JENKINS STUMBLING THROUGH HIS LIVING ROOM...



I'M COMING!
I'M COMING!

I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED MY POSITION TO THE AUTHORITIES! I'M A FREE-LANCE CRIME REPORTER-- WORKING ON AN EXPOSE OF THE LOCAL SYNDICATE THAT'LL BLOW THE LID OFF IT!

THEY DON'T DARE GUN ME DOWN IN THE OPEN-- THEY MIGHT BE SPOTTED! THEY WANT MY DEATH TO LOOK LIKE -- A FREAK ACCIDENT!

LET 'EM COMPLAIN! I'VE GOT A RIGHT-- AND A GUN PERMIT-- TO PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST THESE THREATS TO MY LIFE!

YOU'VE BEEN SHOOTING OFF YOUR GUN AGAIN, MR. JENKINS! AND THE NEIGHBORS ARE COMPLAINING--



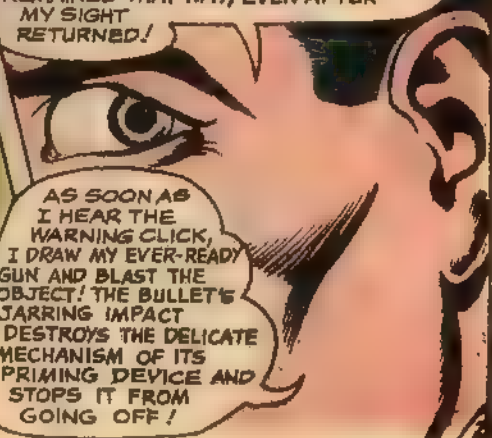
AND HOW DO THEY TRY TO PULL OFF THIS INSIDE JOB?

THEY BOMB-- BUG A VASE-- A LAMP-- ANY HARMLESS-LOOKING OBJECT IN MY APARTMENT! FORTUNATELY, JUST BEFORE IT BLOWS UP-- THE OBJECT'S TIMING DEVICE EMITS A FAINT CLICK!



SOME YEARS BACK, I BECAME BLIND, TO COMPENSATE FOR MY LOSS OF EYESIGHT, MY HEARING BECAME VERY ACUTE! IT REMAINED THAT WAY, EVEN AFTER MY SIGHT RETURNED!

AS SOON AS I HEAR THE WARNING CLICK, I DRAW MY EVER-READY GUN AND BLAST THE OBJECT! THE BULLET'S JARRING IMPACT DESTROYS THE DELICATE MECHANISM OF ITS PRIMING DEVICE AND STOPS IT FROM GOING OFF!



THE FOLLOW-
ING EVENING,
RALPH
(ELONGATED
MAN) DISNEY
AND HIS WIFE
SUE ARE
VISITING
OLD
FRIENDS
IN THE
PENDRAGON
ARMS...

BIAM!

GUNSHOT IN THE APARTMENT
ABOVE! I BETTER
SEE WHAT...

HOLD IT, RALPH! AND THAT GOES
FOR YOUR TWITCHING NOSE, TOO!
THERE'S NO MYSTERY ABOUT
THAT SHOT!

TELL HIM,
EVELYN!



AND WHEN RALPH IS FILLED IN
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
UPSTAIRS TENANT...

SEE? MY NOSE IS TWITCHING
MORE THAN EVER! IT SCENTS
MORE THAN YOU'VE
TOLD ME! AND
SINCE IT WON'T
STOP TILL I
INVESTIGATE...

RALPH--
SIT DOWN!
YOU CAN'T
JUST WALK
OUT ON OUR
HOSTS THIS
WAY!



NEVERTHELESS, I JUST
CAN'T SIT AROUND HERE
WITH YOU ALL GAWKING AT
MY NOSE! SO PLEASE
EXCUSE ME-- THE
ELONGATED MAN'S
GOT A JOB TO DO!

LET HIM
GO, SUE!
AFTER ALL
IF YOU
WERE
MARRIED
TO A
DOCTOR--



WHEN HIS HEAD IS LEVEL WITH
THE WINDOW OF THE JENKINS
LIVING ROOM...

THERE HE IS-- WITH A GUN
NEXT TO HIM, READY TO
SHOOT!



HE'S USING A NOISELESS
TYPEWRITER SO HE CAN HEAR
THE WARNING CLICK THAT A
HIDDEN TIME-BOMB IS
GOING TO BLOW!

HE MUST HAVE HEARD A
CLICK! HE'S GRABBED
HIS GUN-- AIMING IT AT
THAT PAINTING ON
THE WALL!



STOPPED
IT-- JUST
IN TIME!

BLAMM

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

3

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BUT EVEN AS THAT GUNSHOT RINGS OUT...

AS THE FURY OF THAT REVERBERATING REPORT BLOWS OUT THE WINDOWS...

WATCH OUT FOR FLYING GLASS!

KAPOW!

EH? ANOTHER KILLER-TRAP-- THAT WALL PLAQUE BEHIND HIM... EXPLODED AT THE SAME TIME AS HE FIRED AT THE PAINTING!

THE FIRST GUNSHOT DROWNED OUT THE WARNING CLICK OF THE WALL-PLAQUE'S TIMER! JENKINS COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE HEARD IT! I WONDER IF IT KILLED...

JENKINS-- YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES-- THANKS TO THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION KNOCKING ME UNDER THIS PROTECTIVE DESK!

THE SYNDICATE'S GETTING MORE DESPERATE-- AND DIABOLICALLY CLEVER! THEY PLANTED TWO BOMBS-- WITH THE SECOND ONE TIMED TO GO OFF WHILE I WAS STOPPING THE FIRST!

WHEW! THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE! NEXT TIME-- BUT THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A NEXT TIME!

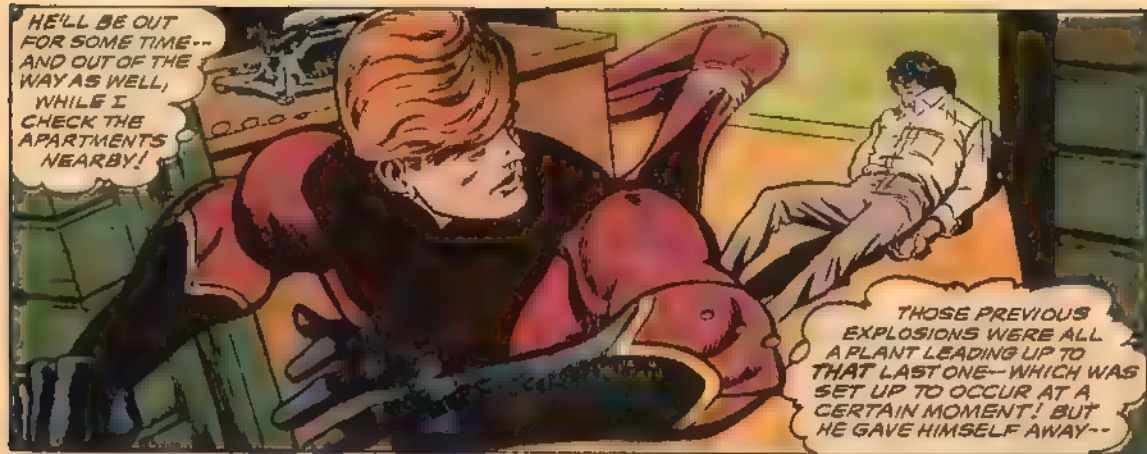
OH, NO YOU'RE NOT!

I'M GOING TO PACK MY BAGS AND GET OUT OF TOWN--

JENKINS-- YOU'RE A PHONEY!

ZOK!

NOW I KNOW WHY MY NOSE WAS TWITCHING! YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING FISHY-- AND I'M GOING TO STOP IT!



FROM THE ROOFTOP, THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE SEARCHES THE WINDOWS OF THE APARTMENTS CLOSEST TO THAT OF HANFORD JENKINS...

MY GUESS IS, THE SOUND OF THE LAST EXPLOSION WAS TO COVER UP THE SIMULTANEOUS SOUND OF A SAFE BEING BLASTED OPEN!

AN! THERE'S THE PROOF OF MY THEORY!

I'LL SLIP IN THROUGH THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT AND SURPRISE THEM!

BUT THE STRETCHABLE SLEUTH'S SURPRISE ENTRANCE BACKFIRES ON HIM WHEN A NOISE FROM THE AIR VENT ALERTS THE OCCUPANTS...

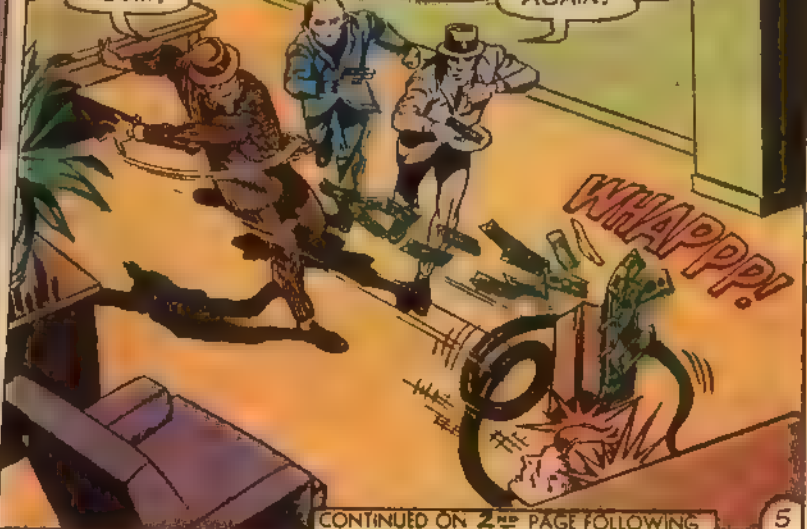
ELONGATED MAN!

HOW IN BLAZES DID HE KNOW...?



STOP HIM-- BEFORE THE REST OF HIM GETS INTO THE ROOM!

IF ANYBODY HEARS GUNSHOTS-- THEY'LL THINK IT'S JENKINS SHOOTING UP HIS PLACE AGAIN!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

5

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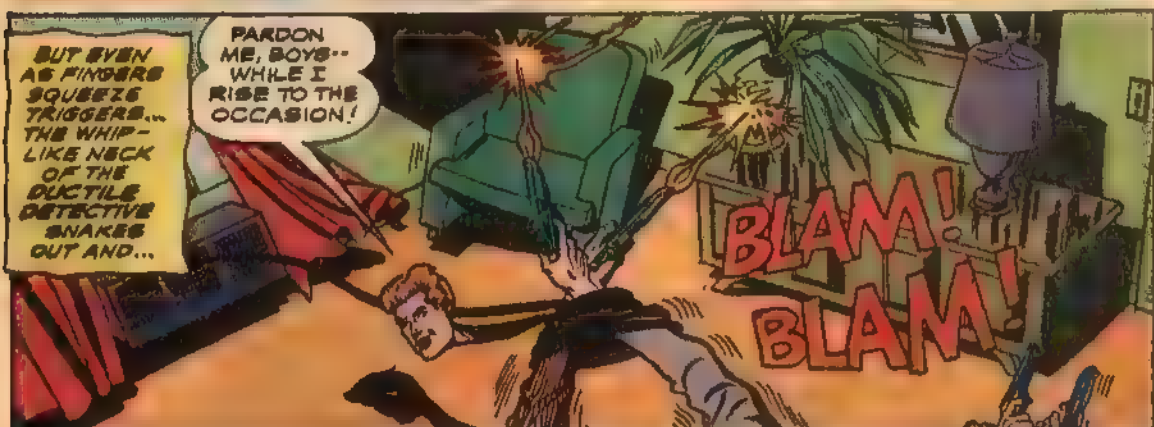
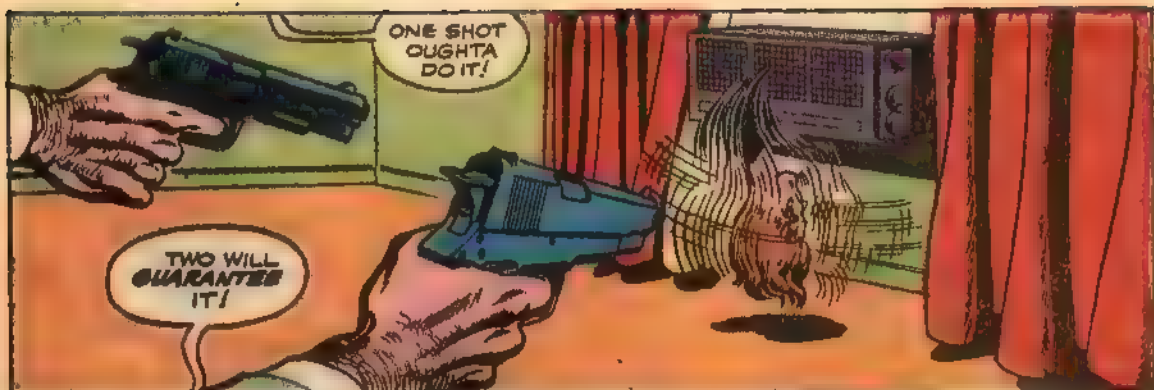
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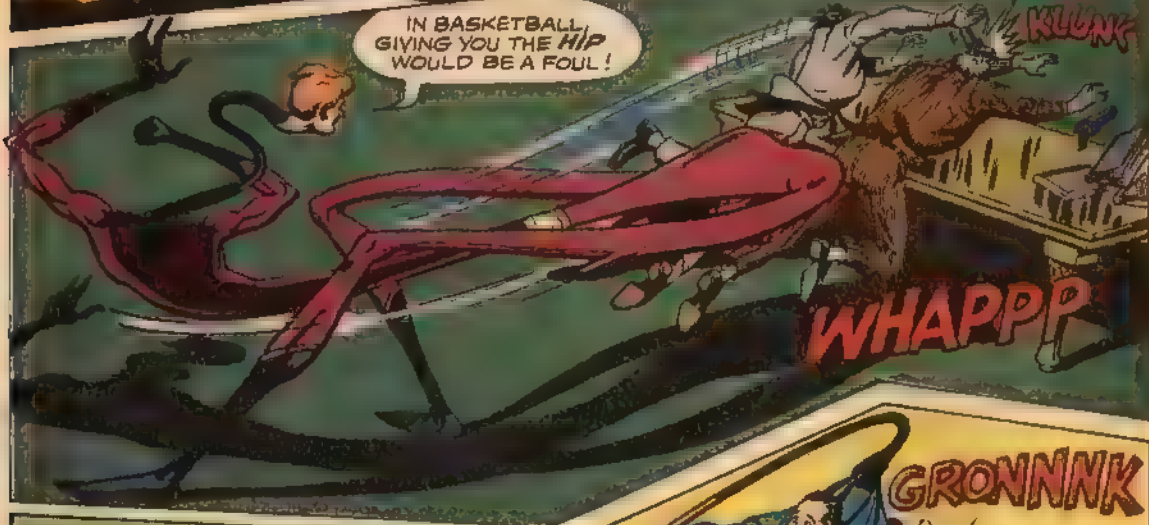


MEANWHILE, THE NECK-HELD
ROBBERS MANAGE TO SQUIRM
LOOSE...

NOW THAT I'M FINALLY IN THE ROOM, I'LL
LET THE REST OF ME GO INTO ACTION!

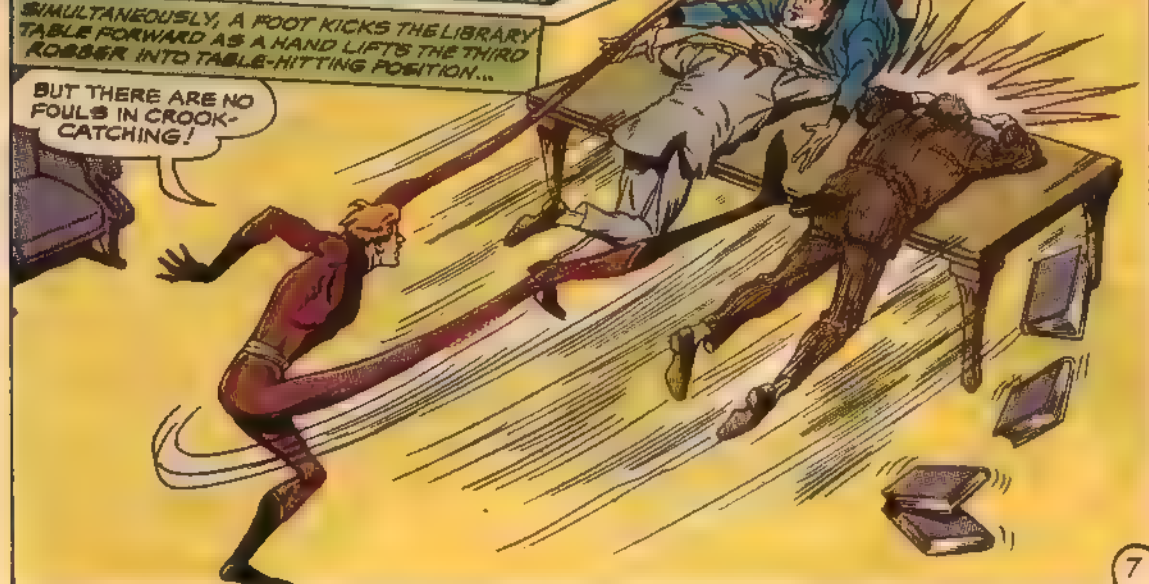


IN BASKETBALL,
GIVING YOU THE HIP
WOULD BE A FOUL!



SIMULTANEOUSLY, A FOOT KICKS THE LIBRARY
TABLE FORWARD AS A HAND LIFTS THE THIRD
ROBBER INTO TABLE-HITTING POSITION...

BUT THERE ARE NO
FOULS IN CROOK-
CATCHING!



I'LL JUST
LEAN ON
YOU BOYS
A LITTLE--

-- BEFORE I
HAUL YOU OFF
TO POLICE
HEADQUARTERS--

ACCOMPANIED
BY THE MASTER-
MIND OF THIS
SAFE-CAPER,
HANFORD
JENKINS!

IN THE JENKINS APARTMENT, MOMENTS LATER...

I HEAR THE ELONGATED MAN COMING
BACK! I WON'T CHANGE THE POSITION
HE LEFT ME IN! I'LL STAY PUT--
MAKE OUT I'M STILL
UNCONSCIOUS...

SO WHEN
HE COMES
THROUGH
THAT DOOR
--I'LL GUN
HIM DOWN!

KLONK

KLANK

BUT BEFORE
JENKINS CAN GET
OFF HIS LETHAL
BULLET...

YOU SLIPPED AGAIN,
JENKINS! YOU'RE NOT IN
THE SAME POSITION AS
WHEN I LEFT TO NAB
YOUR SAFE-ROBBER
GANG!

K-KICKED THE
GUN AWAY! HOW'D YOU
KNOW I WAS PLAYING
POSSUM--?

YOU HAD YOUR
GUN IN YOUR RIGHT
HAND THEN! AND
SINCE YOU COULDN'T
SHOOT ME THAT WAY WITH-
OUT BETRAYING THE FACT
THAT YOU'D CHANGED
POSITION--

--YOU SWITCHED THE GUN
TO YOUR LEFT HAND, HOPING
I WOULDN'T NOTICE!

TOUGH LUCK, JENKINS! I
NOTICE EVERYTHING!

KRIKK

LATER, IN THE POLICE STATION, AFTER CELL DOORS HAVE CLANKED SHUT ON JENKINS AND HIS COHORTS...

...AND JENKINS USED THOSE FAKE BOMB THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE AS A COVER-UP FOR THAT SAFE-ROBBERY? HOW'D YOU TUMBLE TO IT?

WHEN HE FIRED AT THAT WALL-PICTURE, JENKINS WAS FACING LEFT! WHEN THE FOLLOW-UP PLAQUE EXPLOSION "KNOCKED" HIM UNDER THE DESK HE SHOULD HAVE REMAINED FACING LEFT!

BUT I FOUND HIM FACING RIGHT! OBVIOUSLY HE KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT THE PLAQUE WAS GOING TO EXPLODE--AND THREW HIMSELF UNDER THE DESK FOR PROTECTION!

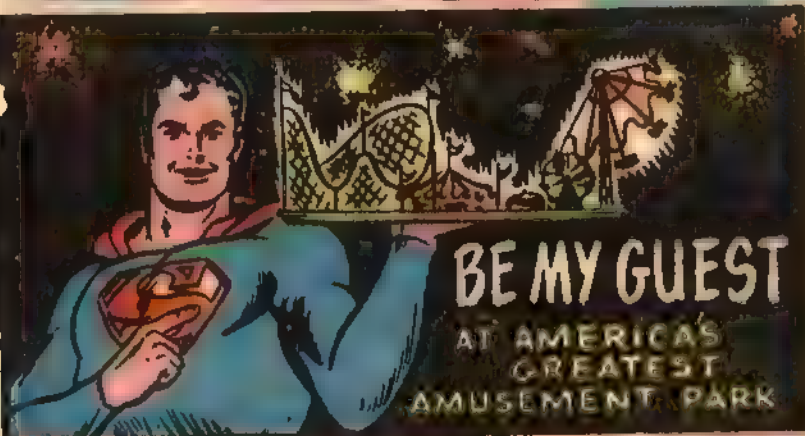
SINCE JENKINS KNEW BEFORE-HAND ABOUT THAT LAST EXPLOSION, HE MUST'VE KNOWN ABOUT THE OTHERS, TOO!

"IMPOSSIBLE!" HIS POSITION UNDER THE DESK AND ON THE FLOOR BETRAYED JENKINS AND ENABLED YOU TO STOP THE SAFE-ROBBERY...

...AND SAVE MY LIFE!

The End

9



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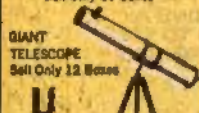
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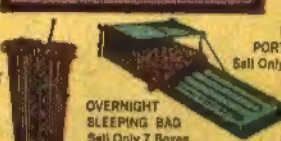
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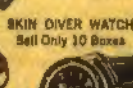
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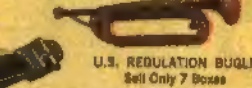
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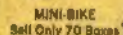
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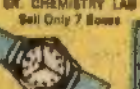
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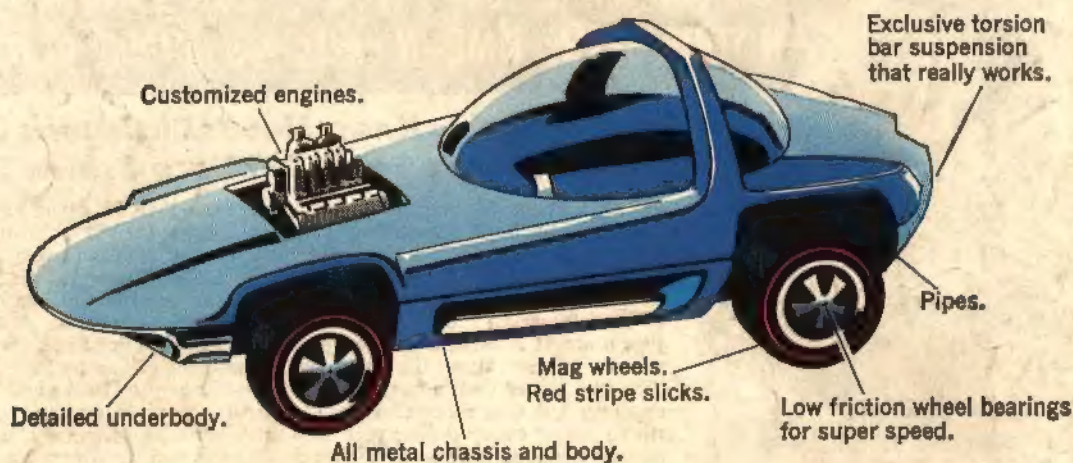
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